



**The Holy Theophany (Epiphany)
of Our Lord, and God, and Saviour Jesus Christ
Which the Holy Church Celebrates on January 6.**

About the beginning of our Lord's thirtieth year, John the Forerunner, who was some six months older than our Saviour according to the flesh, and had lived in the wilderness since his childhood, received a command from God and come into the parts of the Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance unto the remission of sins. Then our Saviour also came from Galilee to the Jordan, and sought and received baptism—though He was the Master and John was but a servant. Whereupon, there came to pass those marvellous deeds, great and beyond nature: the Heavens were opened, the Spirit descended in the form of a dove upon Him that was being baptized, and the voice was heard from the Heavens bearing witness that this was the beloved Son of God, now baptized as a man (Matt. 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:1-22). From these events the Divinity of the Lord Jesus Christ and the great mystery of the Trinity were demonstrated. It is also from this that the present feast is called "Theophany," that is, the divine manifestation, God's appearance among men. On this venerable day the sacred mystery of Christian baptism was inaugurated; henceforth also began the saving preaching of the Kingdom of the Heavens.

Rest from labour. All foods allowed.

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Dismissal Hymn. First Tone

WHEN Thou wast baptized in the Jordan, O Lord, the worship of the Trinity was made manifest; for the voice of the Father bare witness to Thee, calling Thee His beloved Son. And the Spirit in the form of a dove confirmed the certainty of the word. O Christ our God, Who hast appeared and hast enlightened the world, glory be to Thee.

Hypakoë. Plagal of First Tone

WHEN Thou didst enlighten all things by Thine Epiphany, the briny sea of unbelief fled, and as Jordan flowed down, it turned back, exalting us to Heaven. Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, preserve us at the height of Thy divine commandments, O Christ God, and have mercy upon us.

Kontakion. Fourth Tone

The Original Melody

ON this day Thou hast appeared * unto the whole world, * and Thy light, O Sovereign Lord, * is signed on us who sing Thy praise * and chant with knowledge: Thou hast now come, * Thou hast appeared, * O Thou Light unapproachable.



OIKOS

Upon Galilee of the nations upon the land of Zabulon and the land of Nephtholim, as the Prophet said, a great light hath shone, even Christ. To those in darkness, a shining splendour hath appeared, flashing like lighting in Bethlehem; rather, it is from Mary that the Lord, the Sun of Righteousness, maketh His rays to rise upon the whole world. Wherefore come, ye naked children of Adam, let us all clothe ourselves in Him, that we may warm ourselves. For Thou, Who art the shelter of the naked, and the light to those in darkness, Thou hast now come, Thou hast appeared, O Thou Light unapproachable.

SYNXARION

On the sixth of this month we celebrate the Holy Theophany of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Verses

Christ's Baptism, having rent open the Heavens,
Leadeth therein all such as do not defile it.

On the sixth the Forerunner baptized Christ in the river.

Unto Christ be glory and dominion unto the ages of ages.



Fresco by the Holy Monastery of Saint Gregory of Sinai,
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